

Updated on 27/08/09

Situation of Influenza A H1N1 2009 (Swine Flu)

Bangladesh Situation

- **One hundred forty four (144)** cases have been identified so far in Bangladesh.
- April- September is the influenza season in Bangladesh, IEDCR and ICDDR,B are working on seasonal influenza and predominantly H3N2 viruses are in circulation this year.
- The National Rapid Response Team (NRRT) is under 7/24 alert and conducting investigation of reported cases of suspected Influenza A (H1N1)
- The Civil Surgeons of all districts are directed by the Director General of Health Services to keep themselves prepared for tackling the situation.
- All Civil Surgeons were updated on Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 on 1st July, 2009.

Preparation of Bangladesh

- **Screening at Ports**
 - Health Support Desk started functioning at 15 ports
 - Airport Screening started at Zia International Airport on 29/04/2009
 - Orientation for the airport, seaport and land **Port Health Workers** were completed
 - Orientation of **Immigrations Official** of ZIA and airports also been undertaken by IEDCR
 - Orientations of all land **Port Health Workers** were completed.
 - Screening of all ports started
 - Till to date (July 14, 2009) more than 80 thousand passengers were screened from all the Point of Entries (PoEs).
- **Stockpile of Drugs, Masks, PPE**
 - Oseltamivir, the antiviral has already been stockpiled at District level and Govt. is in the process of procurement of more 40000 courses of antiviral (1 course= 10 capsules).
 - Govt. have 240,000 courses of oseltamivir
 - DGHS have a stockpile of 20 thousands surgical mask
 - WHO have stockpiled 11000 courses of antiviral for emergency
 - WHO also have stockpiled 8000 N95 mask, and 20,000 surgical mask
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) also been stockpiled at districts and also in central level.
- **Hospital Facility Preparedness**
 - Influenza ward at Chest Disease Hospital (NIDCH) at Mohakhali are ready to tackle any kind of Emergency
 - Isolation units at 30 district hospital already been completed and by the end of the year all district hospitals will have the isolation unit ready
 - Infectious disease hospital at Dhaka can be used for the management of patients



- **Laboratory Facilities**

- Bangladesh is well capable of diagnosis of Influenza A H1N1 (swine influenza) at Laboratory of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) with Realtime RT-PCR to provide preliminary lab results within 24 hours and within this week. IEDCR is National Influenza Center (NIC), Bangladesh nominated by WHO.
- IEDCR and ICDDRB are the laboratories where this test can be done.
- Have enough Diagnostic kits
- Interim arrangements have been made with CDC (USA) and WHO for confirmatory diagnosis.
- IEDCR have well reputed virologists have training on PCR at BSL3 laboratories, Laboratory technologist also have training from abroad on PCR.
- BSL3 laboratories at IEDCR will be functioning very soon.

- **Patient Management Capabilities**

- About 5000 physicians have already been trained on Bird Flu/Pandemic Influenza. It may be mention here that the clinical management of Pandemic influenza and currently circulating Influenza A H1N1 is same.
- An interim guideline for the clinical management of swine influenza has already been drafted and already sent to all Civil surgeons for distribution among the physicians.

- **Interpersonal Communication/ Community Awareness**

- A communication strategy developed
- Health messages developed
- Leaflets are distributing to all passengers at every ports.
- Banners with health messages are at every ports
- Messages are being broadcasted through mass media
- 226100 community volunteers were trained for Bird Flu/Pandemic Influenza
- Training of Red Crescent Health Personnel was done by IEDCR

- **Pandemic Plan**

- 2nd National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan, Bangladesh was approved
- A Pandemic action plan is under development.

